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ANNUAL REPORT

**SOUTH CAROLINA
COMMISSION
FOR THE BLIND**

FISCAL YEAR 1979-80



Printed Under the Direction of the
State Budget and Control Board

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The South Carolina Commission for the Blind is in compliance with the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and all requirements imposed pursuant thereto to the end that no person shall, on the grounds of sex, race, age, color or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the provision of any care or service. Any client participant, potential client, or interested person who is of an opinion that benefits are provided on a discriminatory basis has the right to file a complaint with the State Agency or Federal Agency, or both.

Respectfully Submitted,
COMMISSIONER FOR THE
BLIND
Maxine R. Bowles
Commissioner

LEGAL BLINDNESS QUALIFICATIONS

1. Legal blindness shall be defined as a level of central visual acuity, 20/200 or less in the better eye with the best corrective lens available, or a disqualifying field defect in which the peripheral field has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than twenty degrees and which is sufficient to incapacitate one for self-support, or an eighty percent loss of visual efficiency resulting from visual impairment in more than one function of the eye, including visual acuity for distance and near visual fields, ocular mobility, and other ocular functions and disturbances.
2. "Severe visual disability" is defined as any progressive pathological condition of the eye or eyes supported by an acceptable eye examination, which in the opinion of the examiner may or will result in legal blindness within 24 months.

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

September 1, 1980

The Honorable Richard W. Riley
Governor of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Governor Riley:

It is with great pride that we present to you this annual report detailing programs and services provided by the South Carolina Commission for the Blind during Fiscal Year 1979-1980. We made significant progress despite rising costs in materials and manpower, therefore fulfilling our goal of meeting the needs of many of the state's blind and visually impaired citizens.

We share with you the desire to continue priority funding for health services during austere times, and reaffirm our commitment to deliver services second to none.

Respectfully Submitted,
**COMMISSION FOR THE
BLIND**
Maxine R. Bowles
Commissioner

COMMISSION BOARD

1. Mr. Allan C. MustardColumbia
(Chairman - 2nd Congressional District)
2. Clay W. Evatt, Jr., M.D.Charleston
(Vice-Chairman - 1st Congressional District)
3. Mrs. Earlene Gardner Aiken
(Secretary - 3rd Congressional District)
4. Mr. Robert R. Bell Laurens
(5th Congressional District)
5. Mrs. Mattie B. GatlinNorth Charleston
(Member-at-Large)
6. Mrs. Patricia L. PatrickDarlington
(6th Congressional District)
7. Mr. Samuel L. Zimmerman Greenville
(4th Congressional District)

ADMINISTRATION

A feeling of unity guided the South Carolina Commission for the Blind (SCCB) through Fiscal Year 1979-1980. As the staff worked faithfully toward providing the best health care services available to the state's legally blind and visually impaired, the Administration adopted a slogan of "Together We Can," and carried the theme through every phase of the Agency's operations.

In order to improve its ability to plan, evaluate and be accountable for its services, the Commission formed a Data Processing Unit, acquired a computer and added a systems analyst and a programmer to its staff.

The Data Processing Unit is currently in the initial phase of developing a complete data base management information system for all Agency departments. This project will include an update and redesign of the Vision Register to include demographic data, visual acuity and cause of blindness of every legally blind and visually impaired South Carolinian. The Vision Register will provide vital information upon which to plan for the allocation of financial and human resources to best meet the needs of clients.

In June, the SCCB became affiliated with the Helen Keller National Center and began a specialized program of services for the deaf/blind. Funding for the project came from the Helen Keller Center, and is renewable for up to three years. The program will include all phases of training and rehabilitation services, and outreach projects will be available to deaf/blind persons throughout the state.

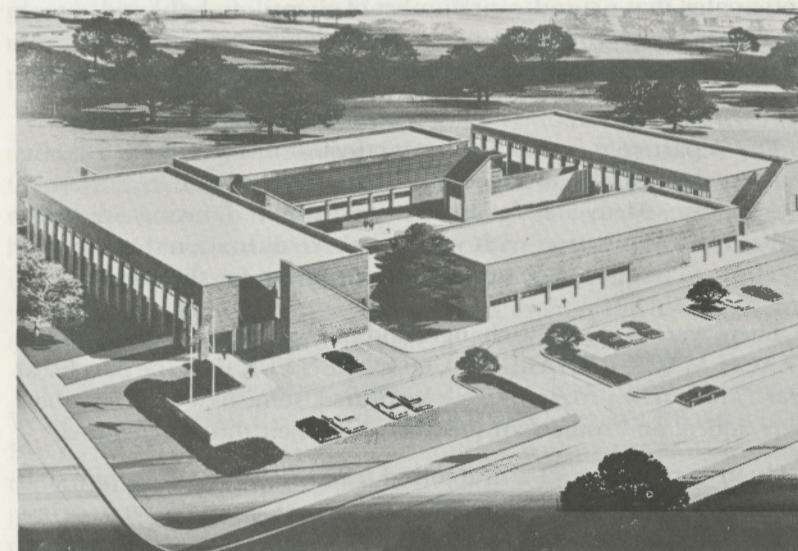
Federal and State funding for the SCCB totaled \$4,647,879 for Fiscal Year 1979-1980, a ten percent increase over last year's total of \$4,220,711. In addition, \$9,153 were donated to the Agency for use in providing client services.

The sense of "Together We Can" was very evident in the personnel of the SCCB last year. A turnover rate that was as high as 18 percent two years ago was cut in half, to nine percent, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1980. There were 17 new hires, 13 terminations, one retirement, and 17 reclassifications recorded during the period, and there were no major policy changes enacted. Staff participation in training programs demonstrated a desire to work together for better services, as 96 percent of the employees were involved in one or more in-service training sessions.

Board Vice-Chairman A. Peter Anselmo, representing the state's Sixth Congressional District, died in April after an extended illness. Mr. Anselmo's seat remained vacant at the end of the fiscal year; however, Dr. Clay Evatt, Jr. of the state's First Congressional District was elected Vice-Chairman.

All employees of the SCCB gathered in Columbia in October for the Agency's Annual Staff Conference to share ideas and work together to refine the operating procedures necessary to serve clients. Dr. Robert J. Winn, Jr., Director of Rehabilitation Services Administration's Bureau for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, was the featured speaker.

Throughout the remainder of Fiscal Year 1979-1980, everyone exemplified the spirit of "Together We Can" by going out of their way to serve the state's legally blind and visually impaired, and, charted a path of continued dedication for the coming year.



The Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center..... home of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Vocational Rehabilitation is a process by which the blind and visually impaired are assisted in finding or maintaining employment. The vocational rehabilitation counselor attempts to identify those factors preventing the legally blind individual from securing appropriate employment, and develops an Individualized Written Rehabilitation Program (IWRP) to provide necessary services to enable the client to achieve his or her stated vocational objective. Services used may include: counseling and guidance, physical restoration, vocational training, necessary tools and equipment, as well as job development and placement.

Records show the Vocational Rehabilitation Department of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind (SCCB) served 1,820 individuals, age 14 and above, during Fiscal Year 1979-1980. A total of 296 clients were placed in gainful employment. Increased emphasis has been placed on serving severely disabled multi-handicapped clients as well as developing increased job opportunities in the competitive labor market for clients.

This department was able to obtain a grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration to work with Clemson University in an effort to identify jobs in the textile industry. It is

anticipated that a significant number of clients can be placed in such jobs since the textile industry is one the major employers in South Carolina. The project is scheduled to be completed by October 1, 1980.

The department is making every effort to utilize similar benefits that may be available to the client in the community. Programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, foodstamps and public housing are being utilized in conjunction with vocational rehabilitational services in an effort to develop a comprehensive program for the client.

There were quite a few changes and improvements in the ELLEN BEACH MACK REHABILITATION CENTER over the past fiscal year. Three new programs were instituted, some new staff members were added, and some staff members had their duties redefined.

Upon completion of a deaf/blind training program by one staff person, the entire Center staff took part in an extended in-service class to learn American Sign Language. The staff worked, over the year, with 12 deaf/blind clients. In May, a grant was approved by the Helen Keller National Center for the Deaf/Blind that provided the Commission Center with a Deaf/Blind Specialist. The individual will work exclusively with the deaf/blind and will assist other agency personnel with deaf/blind clients.

A Recreational Specialist was added to the staff during Fiscal Year 1979-1980 to create a much needed element to the adjustment program. This individual will improve the client's physical capacity for work and improve attitudes toward constructive use of leisure time.

A formal work adjustment program was established in light of a program evaluation finding that indicated many of the clients needed training in this field. This period of vocational exploration and evaluation, coupled with classroom activities regarding the world of work and direct experience in the form of on-the-job training in the Columbia area, will prepare a person to enter the competitive work force.

Participation in the Summer Program for High School Children increased. Twenty-one of the 32 students enrolled worked part-time in the Columbia vicinity in various public and private settings. These students and the staff were confident such experiences would be beneficial when these young adults completed their schooling and entered the work world.

Late in the year, a Kurzweil Reading Machine was purchased and

placed in the Rehabilitation Center. This acquisition should prove to be an asset to blind staff members and clients in keeping abreast of printed information not made available in Braille or on tape.

The Rehabilitation Center served 95 individuals this year, with an overall success rate of 62 percent. Competitive placement was found for 37 percent, 38 percent received vocational training, eight percent received educational training and 16 percent were placed as homemakers or unpaid family workers. The center plays a vital role in the rehabilitation of legally blind and visually impaired individuals. This staff consistently strives to meet the needs of each client, and, in doing so, provides the best possible program available.

As the State Licensing Agency for the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Facility Program, the BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM, operating under the South Carolina Commission for the Blind, has two major purposes: To provide public, federal and private locations with a high quality food service; and, to offer remunerative employment for the State's legally blind and visually impaired.

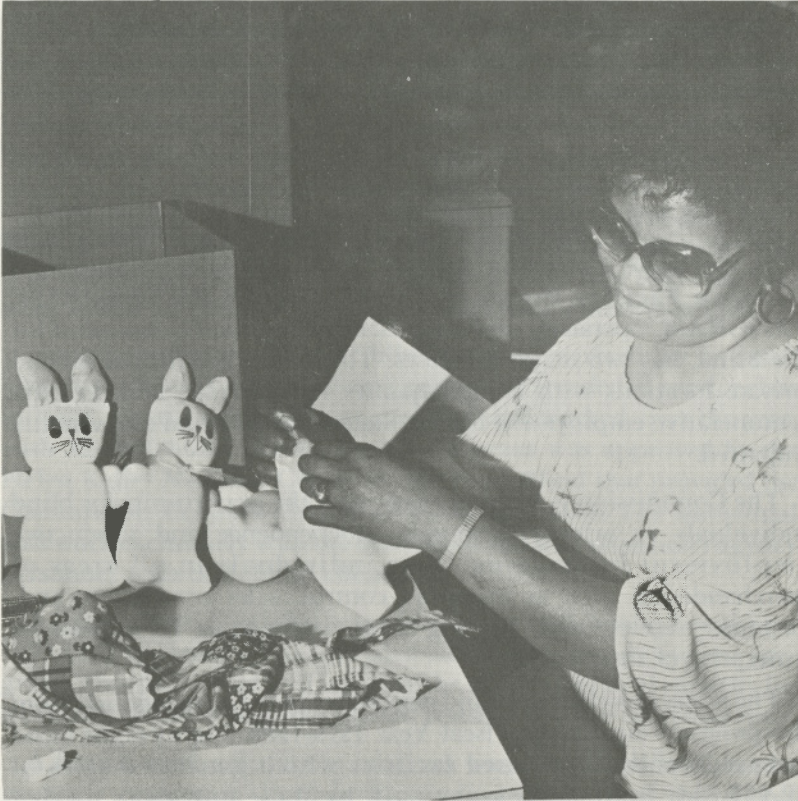
The Commission is helping to increase the opportunity for blind individuals to achieve economic independence and productive employment by training these individuals in all areas of merchandising such as inventory control, sales promotion, and, customer service; and, placing those individuals in a Business Enterprise of their own.

The State, as well as the blind person, benefited tremendously from the program during the Fiscal Year 1979-1980. Eighty-eight blind licensed vendors operated facilities which generated sales of \$2,993,814. State sales taxes paid by these operators totaled \$112,817.55 for the South Carolina Treasury.

The Business Enterprise Program is continuing to grow and expand in many areas. In addition to basic walk trough canteens, full line vending was introduced in 1980. This concept will grow in the coming decade, especially where heavy night work such as post office facilities, is concerned. Another concept, the salad bar/soup well facility was introduced and well received. These changes give customers a larger selection and encourage employees to stay in their buildings during lunch hours, all of which make supervisors and employees satisfied customers.

The Blind Licensed Vendors of the Business Enterprise Program serve hundreds of thousands of patrons yearly. Their positive

performance is helping to eliminate many of the old myths about blind persons and helping to change the overall attitude of the sighted public.



A legally blind client learning how to make stuffed animals out of socks and cloth in Blindcraft.

On January 1, 1980, the BLINDCRAFT PROGRAM was placed under the supervision of the Rehabilitation Center in a move to enable enrolled clients an opportunity for evaluation in the Home Industries Program, as well as a chance to explore its potential as a source of employment if the client was unable to be placed in competitive employment.

Marketing of retail products slowed somewhat due to a sagging economy, but new accounts such as the Southeast Exchange Region for the Army and the Air Force, and the South Carolina

Division of State Parks made the future look brighter. The Mobile Blindcraft Exhibit, leased to civic groups as a fund raiser, continued to be a solid source of sales. An advertising campaign to promote products made by blind workers was expanded to gain wide public attention and to increase sales that would increase the amount paid to each worker.

A renewed emphasis on quality and service to vendors improved wholesale market orders, allowing for more work for clients as well as a need to train more craftsmen. More importantly, increased wholesale deliveries represented a desire for the products manufactured by the state's blind and visually impaired.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

The Prevention of Blindness Department of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind (SCCB) encompasses three main areas of concern: Screening and disease detection for referral and follow-up; Medical care and treatment including medical therapy, hospitalization, surgery, and use of visual aids such as glasses; and, Low Vision Clinics to assist people in using what residual vision they have through motivation and magnification.

Fiscal Year 1979-1980 was economically tight for the Prevention Department and proved to be a year of limitations as far as meeting the needs for medical eye care and treatment. All elective surgery was postponed in early February, and no surgery was authorized after March 15, 1980, except for emergencies.

Cataract surgeries numbered 201 during the year, along with 23 cases of Glaucoma needing surgical intervention, six enucleations, 43 emergency cases requiring hospitalization and perhaps surgery, 36 children undergoing strabismus surgery to straighten crossed eyes, and 104 other types of operations, most of which were Laser treatments and retinal detachment surgery necessary to salvage the vision of an ever increasing number of diabetics.

Eye examinations were provided for 1,519 persons, 740 of which either had crossed eyes or a visual acuity of less than 20/200 uncorrected, and needed glasses or visual aids. Follow-up examinations were sponsored for 2,941 persons needing assistance for abnormalities or diseases of the eye, including tension checks for glaucoma.

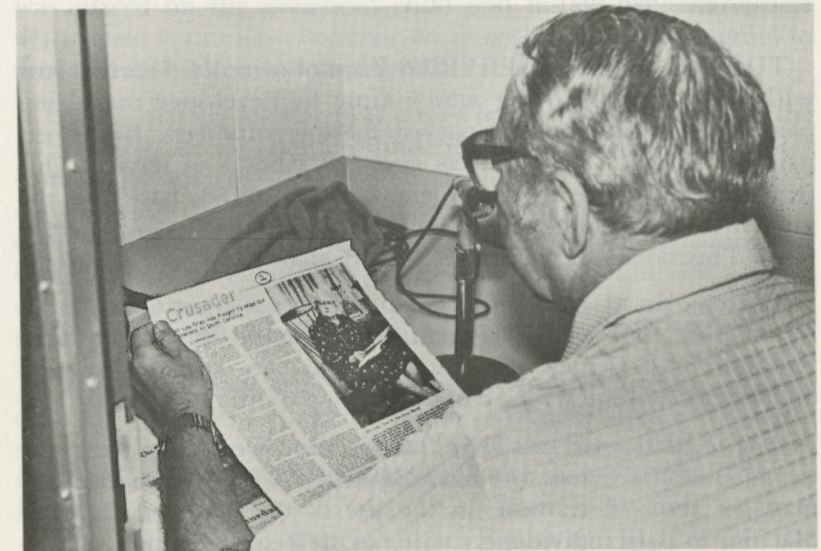
The Mobile Eye Screening Van visited 44 different areas of the state to check 8,051 people for visual acuity and 4,877 people for glaucoma. Eye specialists received 2,127 referrals from the van and 88 of these had high pressure (abnormal glaucoma) readings.

Low Vision Clinics around the state evaluated 80 persons, with 96 percent of them being helped by the use of visual aids. Referrals to these clinics and requests from individuals have dramatically increased.

SPECIAL SERVICES

A new supervisor was selected to head the Special Services Division of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind (SCCB) during Fiscal Year 1979-1980. The individual was promoted from within the division.

Each of the Special Services Department's divisions provide unique services to legally blind and visually impaired citizens.



A volunteer recording a newspaper story for broadcast over Educational Radio for the Blind.

EDUCATIONAL RADIO FOR THE BLIND expanded its broadcast hours and number of listeners by the increased use of volunteers during the fiscal year. They read materials onto tape for delayed broadcast, participated in live readings, and provided technical assistance in the studio by timing and cleaning tapes. In November, 1979, the station began broadcasting from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday for a total of 93 hours each week. With the addition of a new announcer in April, the staff began planning to expand hours again in the new fiscal year.

Educational Radio was involved in an innovative grant with Greenville Technical College to provide college courses for credit or

non-credit. This program was well received by the listeners. Another addition this year was programming from National Public Radio's Services for the Print Handicapped. Nationally produced programs of interest to the visually impaired were aired daily. Highlights of the year featured the Rose Bowl Parade, narrated for the blind by a blind announcer, and proceedings of the Helen Keller Centennial Congress.

As of June 30, 1980, 1,026 receivers were being used statewide with anticipated expansion of services into the Beaufort area early in Fiscal Year 1980-1981.

THE VOLUNTEER SERVICES Director completed his first year with the Agency, during which time he developed recruiting pamphlets and orientation packets for the volunteers. His efforts paid off in that 116 volunteers gave 3,822 hours of service. This represents a saving to the Agency of \$19,109.80, based on the guidelines of the Value of Volunteer Services in the U.S. of \$5.00 per hour. This saving of tax dollars is equivalent to 1.7 staff positions.

The majority of volunteer services were used in Educational Radio for the Blind, but volunteers were also used in the Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center, the Children's Services Department, and other areas. Volunteerism didn't cost, it paid off!

New technological advances for the blind were reflected in the expansion of services in the MEDIA CENTER. The Center's manager received training in the use of the Kurzweil Reading Machine to assist individuals coming to the Rehabilitation Center to use the machine to transform printed material to auditory output. The Media staff now has computerized Braille production capacity using the Duxbury Braille Translation System, which is hosted by the Agency's computer. The braille material is embossed by a Triformations Systems LED 120 terminal. In order to more efficiently utilize this equipment, the manager sought and received certification in braille from the National Library Service.

The Center continued to provide fast and efficient service in braille, audio tape and large type reproduction. Agendas for meetings and restaurant menus were among the requests for braille filled during the Fiscal Year 1979-1980. Twenty-five percent of the braille production requests were filled by in-state volunteers as well as 90 percent of tape requests and 95 percent of large print orders. Fifty-five percent of braille requests were completed by out-of-state volunteers, and 20 percent were ordered through catalogues. Ten

percent of the taped materials and five percent of the large print orders were acquired through catalogues. The Center issued 112 talking book machines.

The CHILDREN'S SERVICES Department offered a variety of programs for visually impaired children and their parents throughout the fiscal year. As in the past, the main service was on the one-to-one interaction of staff with individual children. With the implementation of Public Law 94-142, the Education of All Handicapped Children Act, the emphasis for this in-depth service was placed on the preschool child and his or her family. The department continues to operate an intensive outreach program to serve those children and their families in their homes.

A Christmas get-together was hosted in one geographic area of the state to give parents an opportunity to meet each other and discover community services. The children enjoyed Santa Claus, punch, and cookies while their parents discussed mutual needs and resources. A summer recreational program in another area of the state provided orientation to neighborhood playgrounds and facilities for a group of visually impaired children. Other children participated in swimming and horseback-riding classes.

Fifty-five children from across South Carolina attended the fifth annual version of Camp Leo, a summer camp for blind and visually impaired children cosponsored by the South Carolina Commission for the Blind and the Hilton Head Island Lions Club on Hilton Head Island.

The annual Parent Workshop was held in April for parents of visually impaired preschool children. These new parents were oriented to services available to them and their children in informal sessions. An internationally known speaker from the International Institute for the Visually Impaired (Ages 0-7) was the guest lecturer, and the 25 families who attended responded enthusiastically to the entire weekend program.

SOURCES OF FUNDS

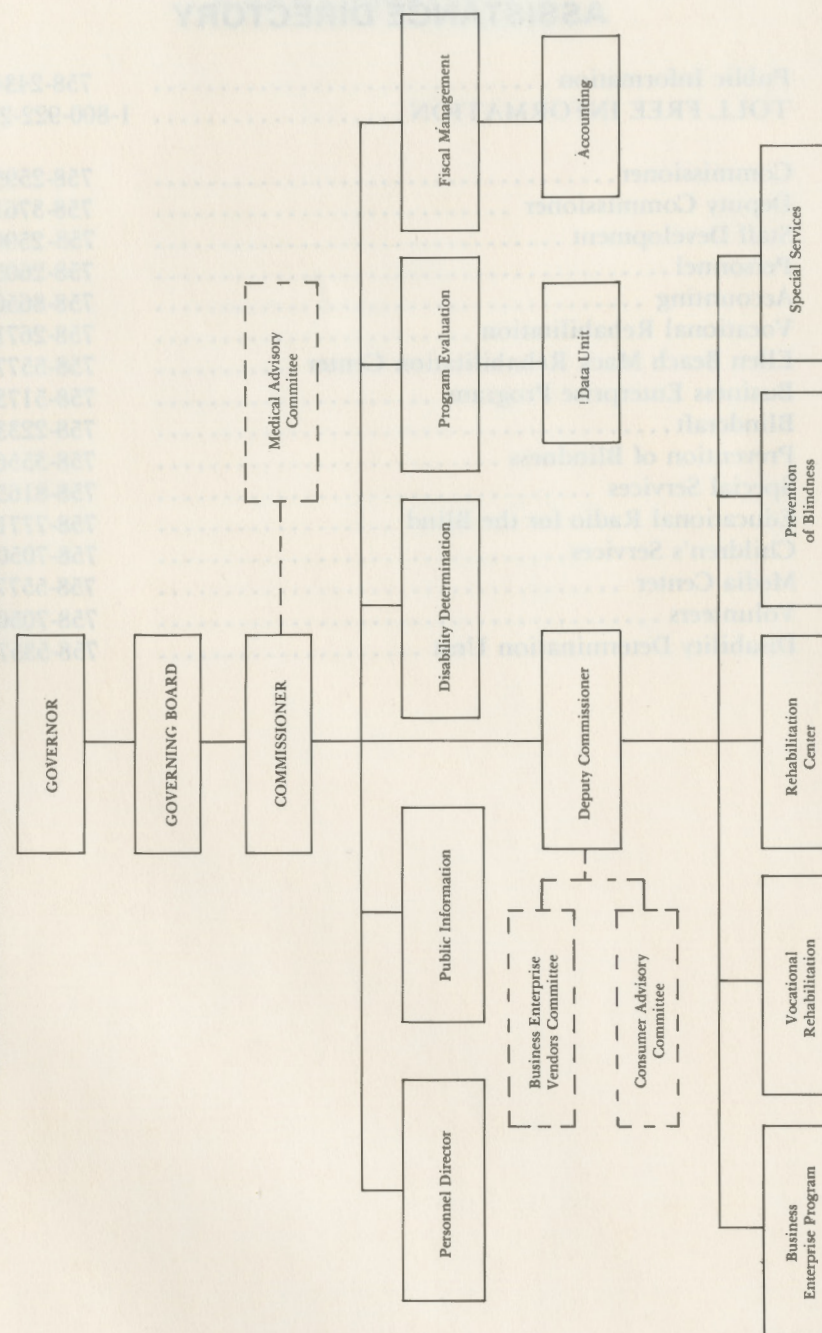
FISCAL YEAR 1979 - 1980

1. Federal Government	\$2,515,994
2. State Government	\$2,131,885
3. Donations	9,153
Total - All Funds	\$4,657,032

EXPENDITURES

1. Administration	\$1,078,898
2. Prevention of Blindness	560,028
3. Rehabilitation Services	2,763,286
4. Special Services	254,820
Total Expenditures	\$4,657,032

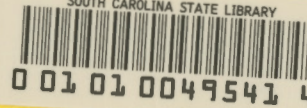
SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND



ASSISTANCE DIRECTORY

Public Information	758-2434
TOLL FREE INFORMATION	1-800-922-2222
Commissioner	758-2595
Deputy Commissioner	758-3761
Staff Development	758-2596
Personnel	758-2605
Accounting	758-8650
Vocational Rehabilitation	758-2671
Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center	758-5577
Business Enterprise Program	758-5173
Blindcraft	758-2233
Prevention of Blindness	758-3556
Special Services	758-8165
Educational Radio for the Blind	758-7771
Children's Services	758-7050
Media Center	758-5577
Volunteers	758-7050
Disability Determination Unit	758-5357

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